AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 25 with the following:

Fig. 1 shows the the effects of pH on the activity of alkaline protease KP43.

_____Fig. 2 shows the effects of pH on the stability of alkaline protease KP43 (40°C., 30 minutes).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 with the following:

Fig. 3 shows the effects of pH on the stability of alkaline protease KP43 (10°C, 24 hours).

_____Fig. 4 shows the effects of temperature on the activity of alkaline protease KP43.

_____Fig. 5 shows the effects of temperature on the stability of alkaline protease KP43.

_____Fig. 6 shows the effect of an oxidizing agent (50 mM hydrogen peroxide) on the activity of alkaline protease KP 43.

_____Fig. 7 shows N-terminal sequences of KP9860 protease and partially degraded products thereof (SEQ ID NOS:9-13, appearing in descending order in Fig. 7).

_____Fig. 8 shows primer sequences ~~(SEQ ID NOS:14-20)~~ designed from an N-terminal sequence of KP9860 protease (SEQ ID NOS:9-13). 9860-N2, and its variants shown in Fig. 8, corresponds to SEQ ID NO:14. 9860-18k-RV, and its variants shown in Fig. 8, corresponds to SEQ ID NO:15. 9860-18k, and its variants shown in Fig. 8, corresponds to SEQ ID NO:16. 9860-25k-RV, and its variants shown in Fig. 8, corresponds to SEQ ID NO:17. 9860-25k, and its variants shown in Fig. 8, corresponds to SEQ ID NO:18. 9860-28k-RV, and its variants shown in Fig. 8, corresponds to SEQ ID NO:19. 9860-28k, and its variants shown in Fig. 8, corresponds to SEQ ID NO:20.

_____Fig. 9 shows 57 bp PCR-amplified fragments and primer designs (~~SEQ ID NOS:21-24~~ primer 1 = SEQ ID NO:21, primer 2 = SEQ ID NO:22, primer 3 = SEQ ID NO:23, and primer 4 = SEQ ID NO:24).